

Dara Maillard PORTFOLIO

ARTIST STATEMENT

Using art history as an iconographic treasure trove, rethinking it anachronistically, and reflecting on the histories of the body are key elements of my artistic practice. Eastern and Western European imagery, such as Greco-Roman mythology, Christian-Orthodox iconography, historical paintings, and depictions of female figures, are constituent parts of my visual language. By re-appropriating archetypes like the muse, the goddess, the mother, the temptress, and the witch, my works illustrate and reclaim female power within its long history of oppression. In this context, I ask: Why depict the body today, and most importantly, how? I explore the enduring significance of the body in contemporary art, reflect on female identities and address broader themes such as physicality, sensuality, sexuality, pain, trauma, and healing. Drawing from personal and collective experience, my work seeks to answer the question: How does it feel to be in one's body? This allows an exploration into the passed down heritage that shapes the present-day collective psyche.

A further interest in my practice is the obsessive relationship between art and beauty. Within my work, vulnerability becomes a catalyst for liberation, allowing motifs and ideas of beauty to transcend their oppressive origins.

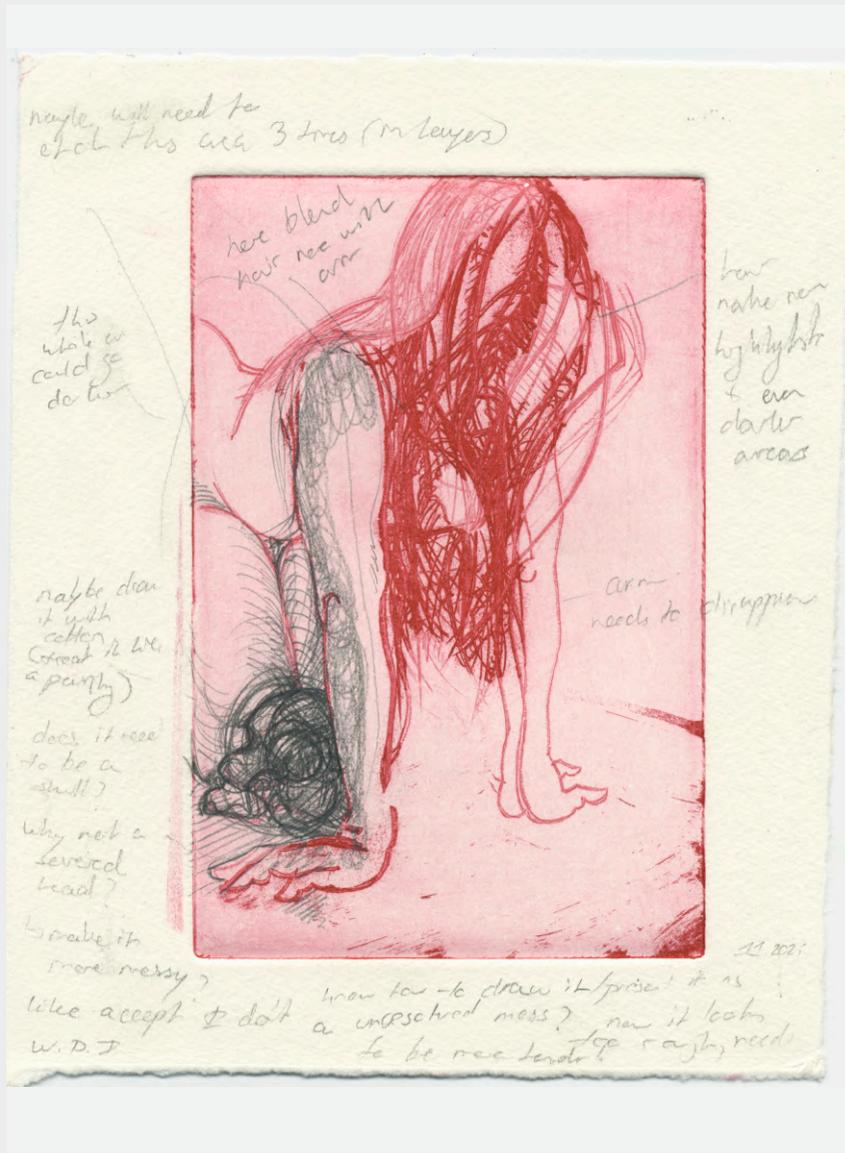
Combining various timelines and cultural contexts in the form of figurative painting is the core method of my artistic practice. My painterly language consists of a complex web of art historical references such as Symbolism, Feminist Avant-Garde, Baroque and Renaissance painting, Expressionism, Fauvism, and Eastern European art. Merging painting with sculpture, installation and etching, the figures on metal and canvas become infused with a fiery intensity, yet juxtaposed with a palpable sense of tenderness. Through the use of techniques inspired by classical and modern approaches, the art historical female figure is bewitched and bestowed with a new form of meaning.



Vanitas II, 2025
Etching, intaglio print on paper
Edition 5/5
10 x 15 cm, plate dimensions
Printed at the RBPMW, NYC



Vanitas III, 2025
Etching, intaglio print on paper
Edition 5/5
10 x 15 cm, plate dimensions
Printed at the RBPMW, NYC



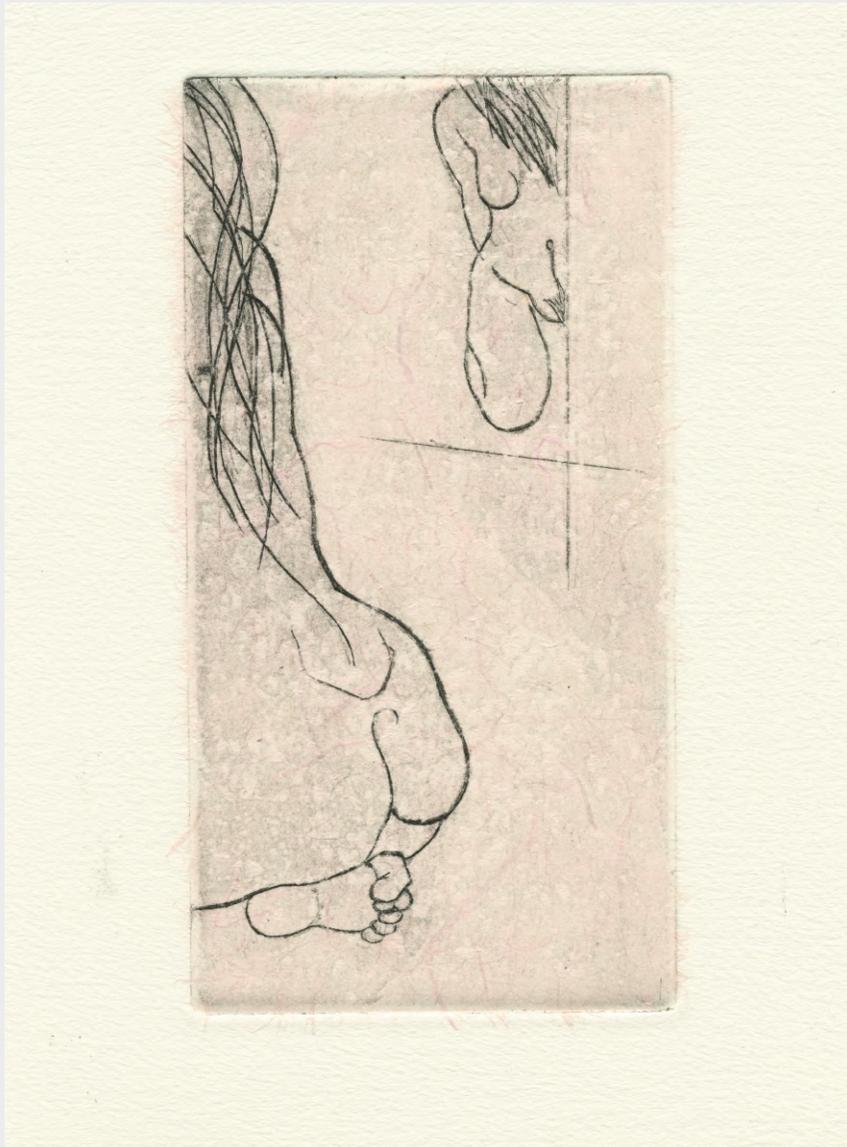
Vanitas V, 2025

Etching, intaglio print and pencil on paper
 Working proof as finished piece
 10 x 15 cm, plate dimensions
 Printed at the RBPMW, NYC



Vanitas IV, 2025

Etching, intaglio print on paper
 Edition 5/5
 10 x 15 cm, plate dimensions
 Printed at the RBPMW, NYC



Vanitas VIII, 2025

Etching, intaglio print and chine-collé on paper

Edition 5/5

13 x 18 cm, plate dimensions

Printed at the RBPMW, NYC



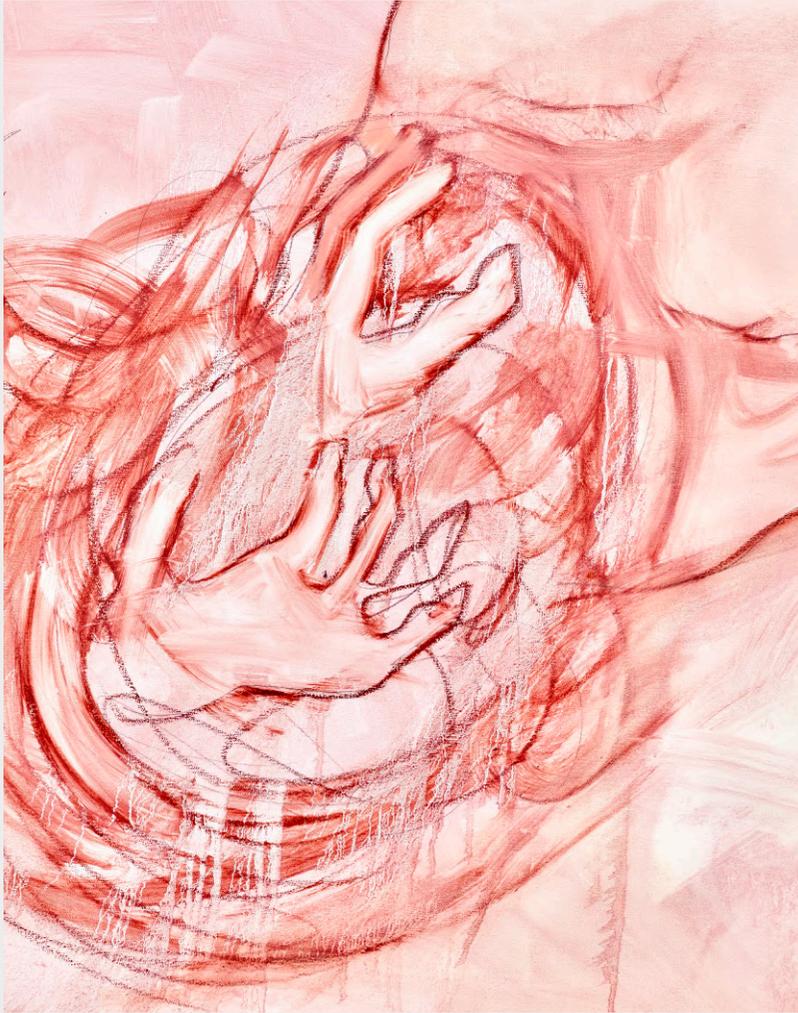
Vanitas VII, 2025

Etching, intaglio print and chine-collé on paper

Edition 5/5

13 x 18 cm, plate dimensions

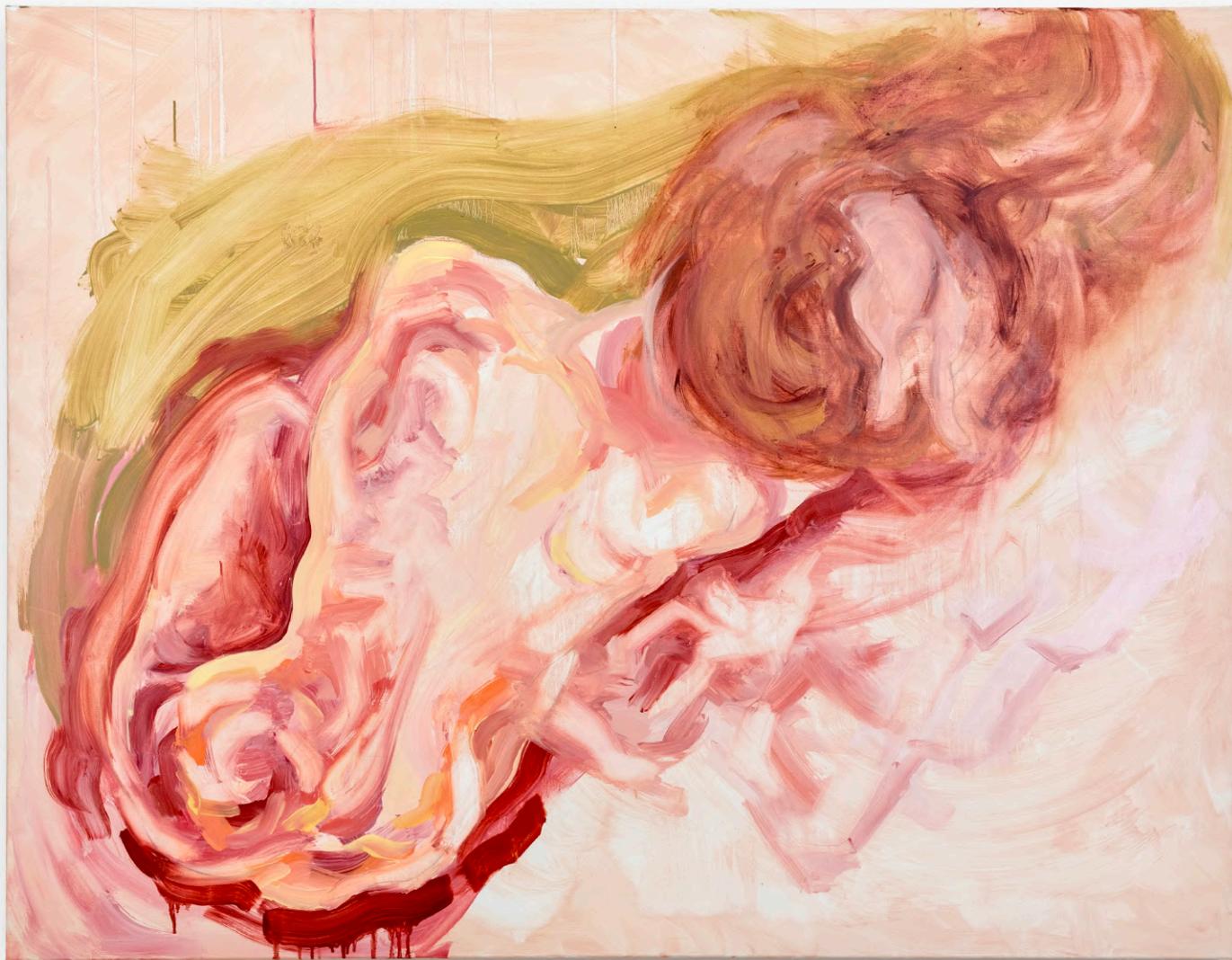
Printed at the RBPMW, NYC



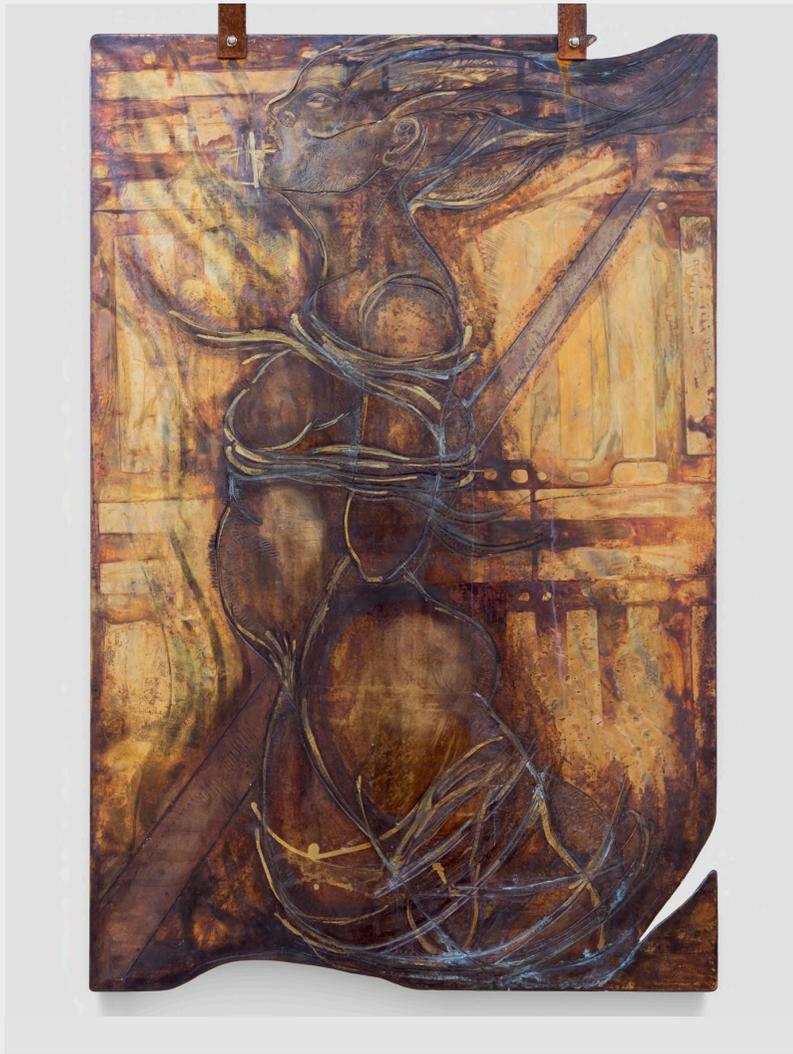
Landscape 3, 2025
Oil pastel and oil on canvas
150 x 120 cm
Installation view,
Kunstverein Frauenfeld



Landscape 4, 2025
Oil on canvas
150 x 120 cm
Installation view,
Kunstverein Frauenfeld



Landscape 2, 2025
Oil on canvas
150 x 120 cm
Installation view,
Kunstverein Frauenfeld



Femtrails, 2025

Engraved and oxidized brass plates, steel tubes, steel chains

270 x 200 x 200 cm

Installation view, the Kunstverein Frauenfeld





Femtrails, 2024

Engraved and oxidized brass plates, steel tubes, steel chains

360 x 200 x 100 cm

Installation view, Bad Ragartz



Femtrails, 2024
Details



Untitled after Rubens, 2025

Oil on canvas

190 x 140 cm

Installation view,

Kunstverein Frauenfeld



Arch of Hysteria, 2025
Engraved and oxidized brass plates
35 x 15 cm each
Installation view, Kunstverein Frauenfeld



How can you doubt me now?, 2023



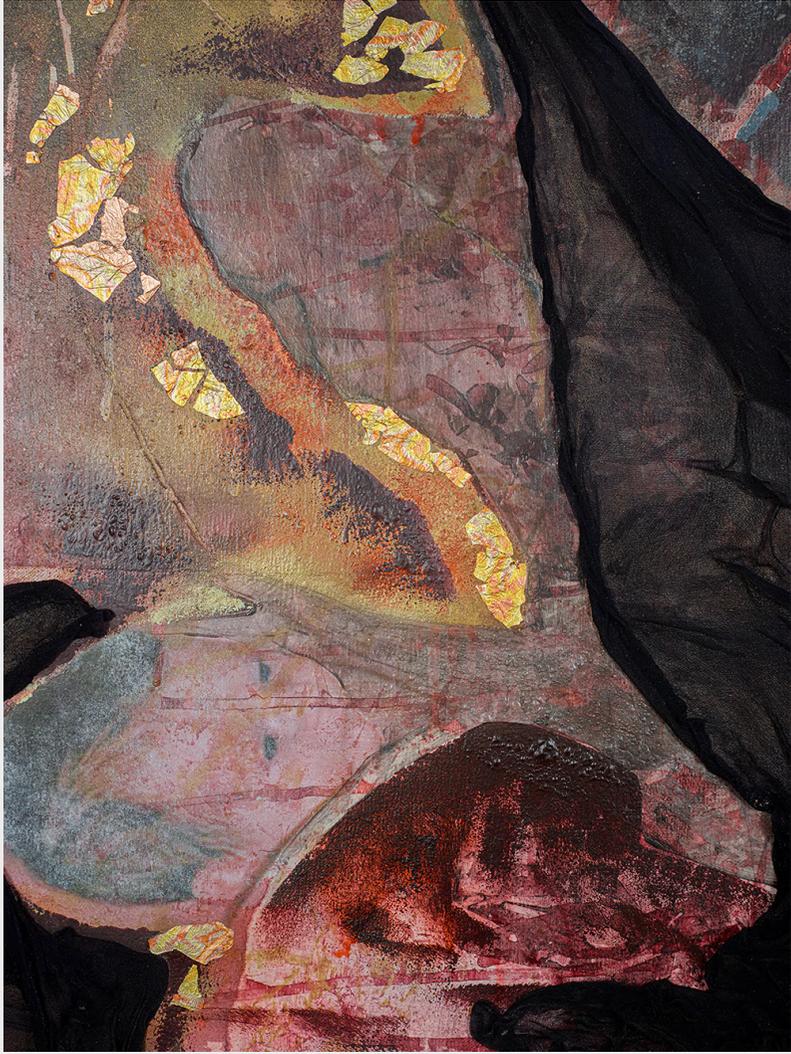
Péchés Gloutons, 2022

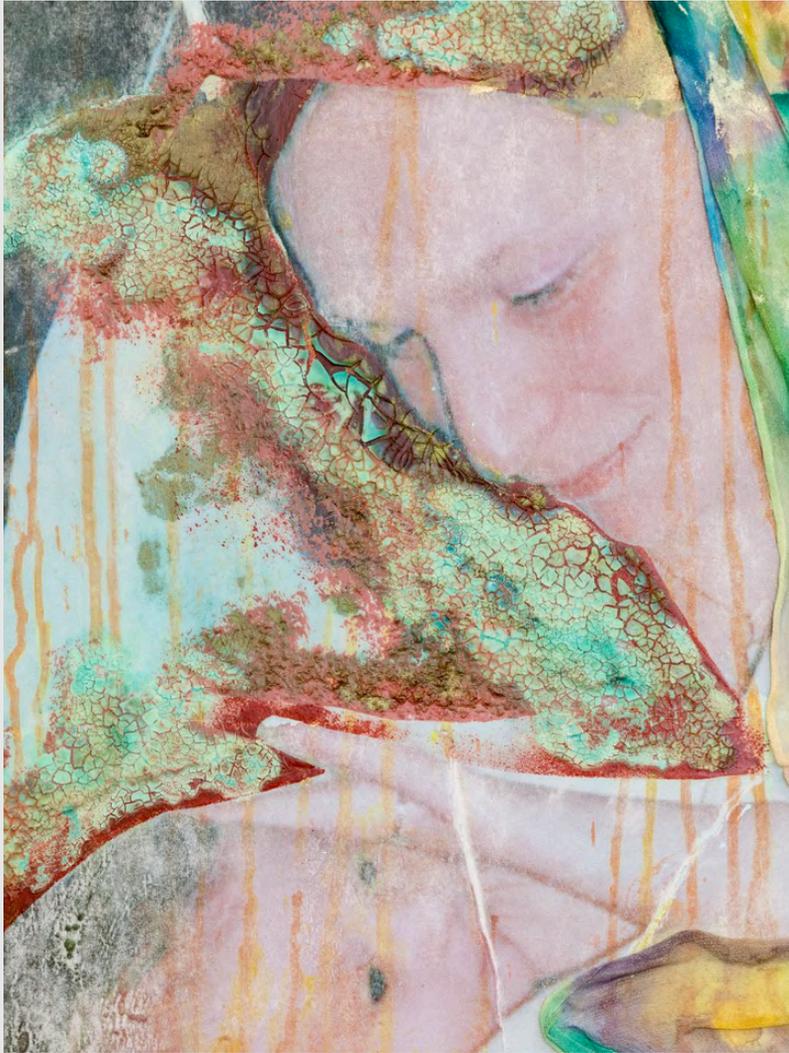
Triptych, acrylic paint on translucent cotton, paper towels
and liquid glue

150 x 500 cm

Installation view, Toxi Space, Zurich







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Mes Mères, 2022
Photo transfer and acrylic paint on canvas, metal powder,
oxidation mediums, translucent varnish, solidified fabrics
55 x 100 cm
Installation view, Kunstverein Frauenfeld



CV DARA MAILLARD

BIOGRAPHY

2020 - current

lives and works in Zürich, Switzerland

2007- 2020

lives in Geneva, Switzerland

2002

born in Sofia, Bulgaria

SELECTED SHOWS

2025

MAFA Diploma Show - ZHdK, Zürich

(Un)Being - Kunstverein Frauenfeld

2024

Bad Ragartz Sculpture Triennale - Bad Ragaz

On Site - Walter Haymann Stiftung, Zürich

Portraits by Seven - Lighthouse, Zürich

2023

BAFA Diploma Show - ZHdK, Zürich

2022

Re:genesis - ALAG, Zurich

Rausch - Zentralwäscherei, Zürich

Purgatory - Toxi Space, Zürich

The Flood - Off-Site Exhibition, Zürich

Dragon's Lair - Off-Site Exhibition, Küsnacht

RESIDENCIES & GRANTS

2025

Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop, Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, New York

Supported by a grant from the American Foundation for Bulgaria

COLLECTIONS

2025

Kunstverein Frauenfeld

and numerous private collections across Switzerland and the US

EDUCATION

2023 – current

Zürich Hochschule der Künste, Master Fine Arts,

2020- 2023

Zürich Hochschule der Künste, Bachelor Fine Arts

2016– 2020

Collège de Candolle in Geneva, Swiss Matura with bilingual German distinction and Art as a specific option

WEBSITE & CONTACT

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